

REMARKS

Claims 9-24 are now in the application. By this Amendment, no claims have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 9-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,051,469 to Boschi.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, a vehicle suspension comprising an elastically deformable bushing of variable stiffness. At least this feature cannot reasonably be considered to be suggested by Boschi.

Boschi suggests a helical spring suspension for reducing physiologically disturbing frequencies ranging between 40 and 5000 Hz. Specifically, Boschi suggests a relatively rigid structure with high stiffness adapted for absorbing noise. As set forth at col. 2, lines 59-63, Boschi suggests that the load acting between the spring and the plate is localized prevailingly on the central annular rib and the radial ribs. As such, Boschi suggests a washer that retains its shape even at low load. Boschi fails to suggest a washer that contributes to the global stiffness of the subassembly of spring and washer.

Accordingly, Boschi fails to provide all of the associated benefits achievable by the claimed subject matter. By way of non-limiting example, Boschi fails to suggest a suspension as described in Fig. 3 of Applicant's disclosure, wherein the elastically deformable bushing of variable stiffness provides a variably lowered stiffness at low load.

Claim 11 recites a base including an annular recess. This feature can also not reasonably be considered to be suggested by Boschi. Instead, Boschi suggests a continuous annular rib 30 and a plurality of alveoli 27 and 28 on each side of the annular rib, which give the washer of Boschi its rigid structure. Further, Boschi suggests that the alveoli are hermetically closed air chambers. Thus, the alveoli suggested in Boschi cannot reasonably be considered to correspond to the annular recess recited in claim 11.

Claims 10 and 12-24 are in condition for allowance for at least their respective dependence on an allowable independent claim 9, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 22193-00024-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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